

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYaTErR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

Meeting ID:
878 4723 5864
Passcode:
647657
By Phone:
+1 (669) 900-9128

Board of Directors
Einen Grandi, Chairman
Dwight Ceresola, Director
Dave Goicoechea, Director
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Paul Roen, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Director Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roberti, Roen, Ramelli
Directors absent: Ceresola (+ one director vacancy)
Also present: Tracey Ferguson, Doug Lawler, Judie Talbot, Ben Volk
Via Zoom: Jay Huebert, Gus Tolley, Jay Huebert, Betsy Elzufon, Joe Turner, Tracy Schohr, Laura Foglia, Debbie Spangler

2) PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District Board of Directors at this time.

There were no public comments.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on December 3. He reported that, with a few exceptions that are typical for this time of year, the wells are still on a good recharge path. 2011 had a lower annual pumping total than this year, but at that point municipal pumping totals were not included and there were not as many wells as there are now.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared that she took a look at the proposed location for the continuous subsidence monitoring station and thinks it will be a great spot. DWR is waiting to hear back from the landowner to move forward with the project. The Implementation Grant agreement is almost finalized and will be ready for execution in January.

C. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

The Planning Committee met on December 7. Topics covered during the meeting included: the DWR Round 2 Implementation grant final agreement; contracting for the CDFW grant; execution of the Plumas Watershed grant; submitting the application for the temporary water rights permit; the potential need for the creation of an ad hoc committee to discuss the development of a new well ordinance; and the Meadow Edge Park application.

D. Smithneck Recharge Project Update

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, reported that the temporary permit request was submitted to the State Water Board last week. She does not know how long it will take to hear back from them, but hopes the turnaround won't take long. This week Ben Volk will be running a drone over the Smithneck Creek area to provide detailed terrain data that can be used to develop the engineering design of potential recharge structures. They will be looking to see where the natural drainages are to be able to use them as much as possible for recharge.

E. DWR TSS Monitoring Well Location

Spangler shared that she took a look at the new proposed location for the TSS monitoring well and agrees that it looks like a good spot. DWR is ready to get started when the District approves the location. Chairman Grandi noted that the landowner use agreement hasn't been signed yet and they don't want to proceed without the landowner's agreement to the recharge project. Spangler understood and noted that DWR will wait for the District's approval. She added that it would be good to have a new location approved within the new couple of months, if possible. Director Goicoechea mentioned that there is a monitoring well on his property that is near the recharge area and could be of potential use. Dwight Smith is going to check out the viability of the well.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Letter of Resignation from Director Don Wallace

1. Appointment of New SVGMD Vice-Chairman

Grandi shared that Director Don Wallace has sent in his letter of resignation from the SVGMD Board. The Board would like to send a letter of appreciation to Wallace for his many years of serving on the Board. The letter of resignation has been sent to Sierra County and the position will be flown fill the vacancy. Wallace was the vice-chairman of the SVGMD Board, so a new Director will need to replace that position.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the resignation of Don Wallace, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Director Roen made a motion to appoint Director Roberti as SVGMD Vice-Chairman, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Grandi, Goicoechea, and Ramelli in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

B. Plumas/Sierra County Well Permit Application Review (if any)

1. Meadow Edge Park Groundwater Supply Evaluation Requirement

Grandi shared that an ad hoc committee was formed at last month's meeting to review District documents pertaining to the Meadow Edge Park project. The committee (Directors Grandi, Ceresola, Roberti and Tracey Ferguson) met and reviewed District resolutions and ordinances. They found that Ordinance 83-01, Ordinance 84-02, Ordinance 00-02, and the SVGMD Groundwater Supply Evaluation Requirements document detail the process that Meadow Edge Park will need to do next. Doug Lawler commented that they received the documents and have paid the \$50 District invoice. He will email his questions to the board clerk. After receiving feedback from various agencies, they have decided to amend their project description so that they stay within Plumas County jurisdiction instead of coming under the jurisdiction of the State.

C. Creation of Ad-Hoc Committee Re: District Well Permit Application and Inactive Wells

Grandi shared that he was recently approached by someone that is considering buying property that has three registered inactive wells. The prospective buyer is wondering what he can do with those inactive wells should he buy the property. The Board recognized that the District needs a policy in place to address inactive well procedures. Director Roen recommended holding a public workshop to review the processes instead of forming an ad hoc committee. Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 15, 2024, the Board would like to move the regular meeting to January 22, 2024 and hold the inactive wells public workshop in the afternoon before the 6 p.m. board meeting.

D. Notice of Offer of Work Pursuant to the SVGMD Purchasing Policy Statement of Qualification (SOQ) Procedures as a Qualified Firm on the Established Sierra Valley Subbasin (5-012.01) Groundwater Sustainability Project (GSP) Implementation Activities On-Call Consulting Services List: Larry Walker Associates Team

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, presented the LWA Notice of Offer and noted that this offer of work is specific to the CDFW grant agreement. LWA will need to notify the Board clerk that they accept the offer to work and then negotiating the terms of contract can begin. Roughly \$750,000 of the CDFW grant will be going to the LWA team.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the LWA team Notice of Offer of Work and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ramelli and Roberti in favor.

E. Services Agreement between the SVGMD and the Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, on behalf of the Plumas Watershed Forum

The services agreement for the Plumas Watershed Forum has been amended to include a reduced award amount for the SVGMD. Ferguson noted that a contractor will be hired from the District's on call list and that grant administration support is available through DWR's technical assistance and also with Uma Hinman of Plumas County. Director Roen made a motion to approve the services agreement between the Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the SVGMD, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ramelli and Roberti in favor.

Chairman Grandi formed an ad hoc committee to make hiring recommendations from the District's on call list of consultants for grant work. The ad hoc committee members include Chairman Grandi, Director Ramelli, Director Goicoechea, Tracey Ferguson, and the board clerk.

F. Resolution 23-08 – Remove Funds from the Plumas County Treasury

Director Roen made a motion to approve Resolution 23-08, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

G. Resolution 23-09 – Duties of District Treasurer and Financial Committee

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 23-09, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

H. Employment Agreement for the Meter Technician

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the employment agreement for the meter technician, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

I. Employment Agreement for the Board Clerk

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the employment agreement for the board clerk, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Grandi, Goicoechea, and Ramelli in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

1) CONSENT CALENDAR

All items on the Consent Calendar shall be considered routine and will be enacted by one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member requests that specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action. Any item removed from the consent calendar will be considered after the regular business items.

A. Approval of The Minutes as Read/Distributed for 11/20/23

B. Approve payment of bills and finance report

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

2) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk